

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-35 and 37-68 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 11-13, 16-18, 21, 28, 37-39, 42-44, 47, 52, 54-57, 60-61 and 63 were amended in this response to more positively recite and clarify claim terms. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendment. Support for the amendments may be found, for example in FIG. 9 and paragraph [0081]. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 and 23-68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *England et al.* (US Patent No. 6,144,991). Dependent claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *England et al.* (US Patent No. 6,144,991) in view of *Cave et al.* (US Patent 6,404,746). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Specifically, England fails to teach or suggest the features of a network interface program that “accepts message content, comprising text and other content entered by one of the plurality of users, establishes a real time chat interface with the system management program and interacts with the system management program to structure the content within the message, and transmit the structured message over at least one of the channels of the computer network, wherein the system management program structures the message content in a specific format based on fields associated with the message content” as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims, 28, 52, 60, and 61.

Under England, the reference teaches an interactive “guide” system (called the “Hamelin system”), where users may interact with a central web page, run by a merchant/educational administrator, to allow two-way interaction between a “client” and a “guide” (col. 6, lines 28-49; col. 10, lines 37-52). Using frame layouts and framesets, the guide may load a webpage to display and/or execute multiple types of applications, such as a chat program, shared whiteboard, shared pointer, distributed pasteboard, and videoconferencing (FIG. 10; col. 10, lines 50-57). For establishing chat “sessions,” England teaches that the Piper server (502) manages sessions and clients attached to sessions, where “each client is a member of exactly one session and each session is essentially independent of other sessions” (col. 11, lines 25-32). Applicant notes that England appears to be configured to only enable communication directly between a client and a guide over an established session - thus England apparently fails to teach or suggest the feature

of a “real time chat interface for enabling a plurality of users to communicate with one another in a plurality of different real time chat channels over the computer network.”

Under the chat interface of England, the framesets are organized to allow rendering of pages or images by the guide that are independent of the text entered by a user (see FIGs. 9-11; col. 17, lines 56-52; col. 18, lines 46-59). England is silent regarding the feature of accepting “message content, comprising text and other content entered by one of the plurality of users” - the message content in England is text-only (col. 12, lines 53-56) - the rendering of frames occurs under separate commands issued to the HTTP server (col. 17, lines 9-13). Thus, England also fails to teach or suggest structuring the content within the message, and transmitting the structured message over at least one of the channels of the computer network, wherein the system management program structures the message content in a specific format based on fields associated with the message content. None of the other cited references solve the deficiencies of England, discussed above.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit the rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn. In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-9, 11-35 and 37-68 are allowable over the prior art. Applicant also requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should there be any other charges regarding this application, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account 02-1818 for any insufficiency of payment.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Peter Zura
Reg. No. 48,196
Customer No.: 24573
(312) 807-4208

Dated: September 26, 2007